

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/720,750

Examiner

Thomas K. Pham

Applicant(s)

WATANABE ET AL.

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to afterfinal amendment filed 2/8/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1-12 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

While Olapurath (U.S. Patent No. 6,678,714) discloses a computer-implemented task management system includes a task server linking at least one task definer, at least one task requester, and at least one task fulfiller over a communication link. The task server is distributing the defined tasks to the task fulfillers for completing the assigned tasks. Olapurath does not teach sending the task unit indicator information read out from the storing means, and the updated task unit indicator information sent back from the work performing element, to each of the work performing elements; and each of the work performing elements comprises: task unit storing means for storing one or more task units; determining whether or not it is possible to execute the task unit that is to be executed next, on the basis of said task unit indicator information; and sending said notification for executability to said information processing device if said task unit is determined to be executable.

Hirobumi (Japanese Patent No. 2000-099109) discloses a production process managing device that can reduce the change amount of processing caused by the addition or change of kind of article and the change of activation interlock for enhancing the accuracy of process start managing processing. Hirobumi does not teach sending the task unit indicator information read out from the storing means, and the updated task unit indicator information sent back from the work performing element, to each of the work performing elements; and each of the work performing elements comprises: task unit storing means for storing one or more task units; and

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sending said notification for executability to said information processing device if said task unit is determined to be executable.

And Miller (U.S. Patent No. 6,101,481) discloses a task management system for managing a plurality of tasks to be carried out by a plurality of personnel, each of the tasks having identified task details. A task controller is being allocated with sole responsibility for each task. Miller does not teach each of the work performing elements comprises: task unit storing means for storing one or more task units; determining whether or not it is possible to execute the task unit that is to be executed next, on the basis of said task unit indicator information; and sending said notification for executability to said information processing device if said task unit is determined to be executable.

None of these references taken either alone or in combination discloses a device for performing work and for commanding tasks having all the claimed features of applicant's instant invention, specifically including: sending the task unit indicator information read out from the storing means, and the updated task unit indicator information sent back from the work performing element, to each of the work performing elements; and each of the work performing elements comprises: task unit storing means for storing one or more task units; determining whether or not it is possible to execute the task unit that is to be executed next, on the basis of said task unit indicator information; sending said notification for executability to said information processing device if said task unit is determined to be executable; wherein the work performance element notifying the information processing device that execution of one of the task units is possible sends a task efficiency value of the executable task unit, and wherein the information processing device selects one of the work performing elements having sent a

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notification that the task unit is executable and sends an execution command to the selected work performing element, upon which the selected work performing element executes the task unit, based on receipt of the notifications that task units are executable and the task efficiency values from the work performing elements. Also, there is no motivation to combine the references to meet these limitations.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner *Thomas Pham*; whose telephone number is (571) 272-3689, Monday to Friday from 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM EST or contact Supervisor *Mr. Anthony Knight* at (571) 272-3687.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thomas Pham

Primary Examiner



February 15, 2007